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SC EXTENDS INTERIM PROTECTION TO TEESTA UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS

A bench of Justices B R Gavai, A S Bopanna and Dipankar Datta issued notice to Gujarat govt and posted the matter for final hearing on July 19. Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, who appeared for the Gujarat govt, told the court they need time to translate some documents. The bench agreed. "Issue notice returnable on July 19, 2023. Whatever documents parties want to place on record shall be filed prior to July 15 after exchanging with each other. Interim order to continue until further orders," the bench said.

UGC NOTIFICATION

No need for PhD to become asst professor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE UGC said on Wednesday that there is no need to have a PhD to become an Assistant Professor. Taking to Twitter, UGC Chairman Prof M Jagadesh Kumar said the PhD requirement has been made optional with effect from July 1.

From now on, the National Eligibility Test (NET), State Eligibility Test (SET) and State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) will be the minimum criteria for direct recruitment to the post of Assistant Professor.

The UGC gazette notification dated June 30 said these regulations may now be called the 'University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) (2nd Amendment) Regulations, 2023.'

The notification said amendments have been made to the 'University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and other Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018.'

Meanwhile, officials said the final results of UGC-NET exams will be out next month. The test determines the eligibility to be appointed as assistant professor and Junior Research Fellows in colleges.

At 32, Ajit has better numbers

16 MLAs attend meet called by Sharad Pawar

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

REBEL NCP leader and DyCM Ajit Pawar wasn't bluffing when he claimed the bulk of party's legislators were on his side, as a meeting he convened on Wednesday was attended by 32 of the 53 party MLAs.

In comparison, a parallel meeting held by party chief Sharad Pawar drew just 16 MLAs. The remaining five MLAs were neutral. While Ajit addressed the meeting with all prominent leaders alongside, Sharad Pawar's gathering had new and young faces. The mood in the Pawar senior camp was nervous, while the rival camp appeared confident.

After days of playing lip service to Sharad Pawar, the gloves were finally off as nephew Ajit asked him to retire from active politics gracefully and hand over the reins to him. "Even government officials retire at a certain age, but uncle Sharad Pawar wants to remain at the helm of the party forever. Why?" he wondered.

Sources said Ajit aims to get 45 MLAs by his side. "In the meeting, 32 MLAs came out publicly in support of Ajit Pawar. There are other fence-sitters who will decide at the 11th hour. A few other MLAs who attended the meeting called by Sharad Pawar are likely to switch sides when Ajit gets elevated as CM. Once the Ajit camp has the numbers, it can claim the right over the party, including its name, flag and election symbol," sources said.

Ajit's revolt is better managed this time because most of senior leaders, who were close aides of Sharad Pawar, are now in his camp. His previous rebellion was easily broken by his uncle as Ajit hadn't done enough spadework, sources added.

To avoid poaching, Ajit has decided to lodge MLAs in his camp at a luxury hotel in Mumbai. "Ajit has been promised by the BJP leadership that he will get the CM's post if he can muster the numbers. Once the legal process is over, the MLAs will be sent home," sources added.

Maharashtra DyCM Ajit Pawar (R) with NCP leaders Praful Patel (C) and Sunil Tatkare in Mumbai on Wednesday | PTI

TIME TO GRACEFULLY RETIRE, SAYS AJIT

"You are 83, aren't you going to stop? Everybody has his innings. The most productive years are from 25 to 75. Give us your blessings and we will pray that you live a long life... 'For us, Saheb (Sharad Pawar) is a deity and we have deep respect for him. IAS officers retire at 60. Even in politics, BJP leaders retire at 75," Ajit said

Govt to order judicial probe into 40% commission row

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE Congress government has decided to order a judicial inquiry into the 40% commission allegation made by the Karnataka Contractors' Association against the previous BJP government.

It is also likely to probe the alleged scams that took place in the Irrigation Department during the pandemic.

The probe panel will be headed by a retired judge.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a high-level meeting with Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma and Additional Chief Secretary Rajneesh Goyal four days ago on the matter. All procedures have been followed and some retired judges' names have been suggested to head the panel. A decision was taken on Tuesday and an order will be issued soon," sources in the CMO informed *TNIE*.

Meanwhile, former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai

welcomed the government's decision and expressed the hope that the probe will bring out the truth. He demanded that the government investigate all scams that took place in the state since 2013.

Former minister and Rajarajeshwari Nagar MLA Muniratna has filed a defamation suit against contractors' association president D Kempanna for not giving any evidence supporting the 40% commission allegation made against some ministers in the previous BJP government, Bommai said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Bill tabled to scrap BJP govt's amendment to APMC Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka APMC (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Bill, 2023, was tabled in the Assembly on Wednesday.

"It is proposed to restore the earlier provision under the Act, which enables APMCs to have control over trading of notified agricultural produce at their yards to protect the interests of farmers," according to the Bill.

The Bill pointed out that the amendment made by previous BJP government allowed trading outside APMC yards and stated that this neither helped farmers in getting remunerative prices for their produce nor in improving their economic status.

It said farmers, who sold their produce outside APMC yards, are prone to exploitation by traders in the absence of a regulatory mechanism. Also, the flow of revenue to the government under different heads of taxes has been affected because of trading not taking place at APMC yards.

The Bill stated that farmers will be benefited by way of competitive and fair prices for their produce sold under the Unified Market Platform. As there is no online system to ensure transparency in trading outside APMC yards, farmers will not get remunerative prices for their produce.

There is a mechanism under the Act for settlement of disputes between farmers and functionaries at APMC yards regarding weight and payment made for the produce sold. But the same dispute redressal mechanism is not available for transactions made outside APMC yards by farmers, the Bill said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

₹2L WORTH TOMATOES STOLEN FROM FARM

Miscreants stole tomatoes worth ₹2 lakh grown on a two-acre farm at Gonisomenahalli village of Belur taluk in Hassan district on Tuesday night. According to the police, the miscreants came in a goods vehicle and took away 90 bags of tomatoes. Officials have promised compensation to the farm owner. **FULL STORY: P4**

EXPRESS READ

Five die as heavy rain lashes Karnataka coast

Mangaluru: Five deaths were reported from the coastal districts of Karnataka in the last 48 hours due to heavy rain. Dakshina Kannada received 101.3 mm of rain in 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on July 5 | P5

FM to meet chiefs of PSB banks today

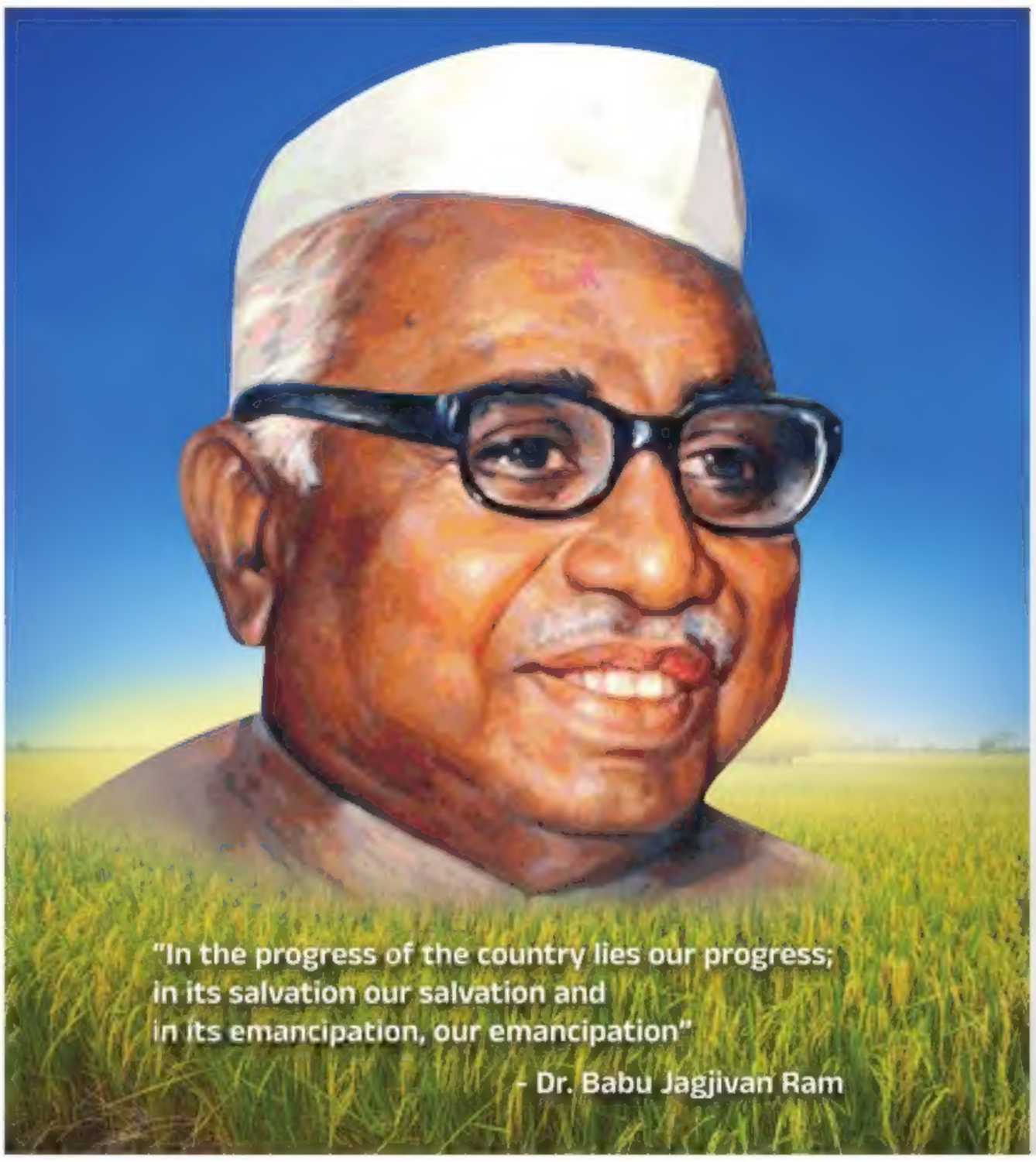
New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to meet heads of PSBs on Thursday and review performance of as many as 12 lenders. This will be the first review meeting after the 2022-23 financial results.

Kharge to hold talks with Gehlot, Pilot today

Jaipur: Congress president Mallikarjuna Kharge will hold a meeting on Thursday with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot and other leaders to thrash out the rift in the state unit | P10

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav | G20

Social Welfare Department


"In the progress of the country lies our progress;
in its salvation our salvation and
in its emancipation, our emancipation"
- Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram

Shri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Messiah of Green Revolution, National Leader,
Former Deputy Prime Minister of India

Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram

37th Death Anniversary

Date: 06-07-2023 Thursday, 10.00 AM
Venue: West Gate of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

Garlanding the statue of Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram
by
Shri. Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister
and
Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare

Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare interacting with students

As is enshrined in our constitution, "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

Commissioner
Social Welfare Department